

# P R E C E P T S

F O R

## C H R I S T I A N P R A C T I C E :

O R

### The Rule of the New Creature;

Containing Duties to be daily observed by every Beleever.

*Per*

*The Tenth Impression. Mich*

By *Edward Reyner* Minister of the Gospel in *Lincoln*.

To which may bee annexed that Excellent Treatise of Mr. *Byfields*, Entituled, *The Spiritual Touchstone, or the Signs of a Godly man*

L O N D O N,

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## The heads of the ten Duties.

### The first Duty.

**B**E alwayes sensible  
of thy original  
corruption, and  
consider how it inclineth  
thee continually to all  
evil, and indisposeth thee to  
any good; growne under it,  
and bewail it; Also take  
special notice of your actual  
sins, or daily infirmities, in  
thought, word, and deed;

and endeavour to make your  
peace with God before you  
go to bed.

The heads of the

### The second Duty.

Get your union with  
Christ, and your interest in  
him, cleared and confirmed  
to you daily more and more,  
that you are a branch in his  
vine, and a member in his  
body.

### The third Duty.

Labour to day and de-  
rive from Christ, by the  
powerful attractive force of  
faith, spiritual abilities suf-  
ficient for the day.

The



## The fourth Duty.

Perform all Duties, both in Family and Closet, especially these three, of prayer, meditation, and reading, and do them with sincere attention, with heat of affection, and with diligence and delight.

## The fifth Duty.

Fortifie your selves every morning against your special lusts, to which by nature you are most prone, or shall be most tempted, be in pride, passion, covetousness, or the like.

## The sixth Duty.

Get your hearts strongly fixed on God by trusting in him, and submitting to him, against all fears, cares, doubts, trials, and afflictions of every day; For sufficient to the day is the evil thereof.

## The seventh Duty.

Get and keep continually a savory relish of your Christian priviledges, wherewith you are invested as you are new creatures in Christ.

The

## The eighth Duty.

*Sanctifie the Lord in your hearts daily, make him your fear, your love and delight.*

## The ninth Duty.

*Get a publick spirit, first to mind the things of Jesus Christ as naturally as if they were your own. Secondly, to look on the things of others, and to prefer Jerusalems welfare before your chiefest joy, and the Gospels liberty before your your own, and to mourn for the sins of the times as the godly in Jerusalem did.*

## The tenth duty.

Get your hearts daily  
weaned from the world, and  
from those creatures and  
comforts in it which are  
dearest and sweetest to you,  
as wife, children, friends,  
goods, liberties, house, and  
life, &c.

to wean the heart of  
the soul to nature in itself  
which is the true  
and only happiness  
of the soul. To this  
end we must be  
careful to keep our  
hearts from being  
too much taken up  
with the things of  
this world, and to  
keep them fixed on  
the things of the  
other world. This  
is the true way to  
happiness, and the  
only way to avoid  
the pains of hell.

The

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**Precepts for Chri-  
stian Practice, or the  
Rule of the New Creature,  
to be daily observed by every  
beleever, in the practice of  
these ten following Duties.**

---


**The first Duty.**

*Be alwayes sensible of thy  
original corruption, and con-  
sider how it inclineth thee con-  
tinually to all evil, and in-  
disposeth thee to any good;  
groan under it, and bewail it  
as Paul did, Rom. 7. 27. O  
wretched!*

2 *Precepts for Christian practice,*

wretched man that I am, who shall deliver me from the body of this death! *Also take special notice of your actual sins, or daily infirmities, in thought, word, and deed; endeavour to make your peace with God before you go to bed.*

Which must be done these four wayes.

1.  Y repenting and confessing your sins to God; working your hearts to grief and sorrow for them by some such melting considerations as these; 1 Of the goodness of God to you. 2 Of the unreasonableness, and every way unprofitableness of sin; and 3. Of the great damage, prejudice, and hurt that cometh to the soul by sin.

2. By

*or the rule of the New Creature. 3*

2 By beleeving and casting your self wholly on Christs righteousness for remission of sin, and for reconciliation with God, *Rom. 3. 22, 23, 24, 25.*

22. Even the righteousness of God, which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all, and upon all them that beleve; for there is no difference. 23. For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God. 24. Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Jesus Christ.

25. Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past through the forbearance of God.

3 By cleaving to Gods promise of pardon and peace, as

*Esay*

#### 4 Precepts for Christian practice,

Esay 43. 25. I, even I am he that blotteth out thy transgressions for mine own sake, and will not remember thy sins. Rom. 5. 1. Therefore being justified by faith, wee have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

4 By waiting till the Lord shall speak unto you, Psal. 85. 8. I will hear what the Lord will speak, for he will speak peace unto his people, and to his Saints; but let them not turn again to folly.

The



The second Duty.

Get your union with Christ, and your interest in him cleared and confirmed to you daily more and more, that you are a branch in his vine, and a member in his body.

This is done three wayes.

**F**irst, by daily renewal of your faith in Christ, especially of that act of faith whereby the soul knitteth or tyeth it self unto Christ; casts and souls it self on Christ for salvation. Cause your hearts in a solemn manner every day to act this part, or to put forth this primitive act of faith in the view of the whole Soul; The daily exercise herof will increase and strengthen the divine habit

## 6 Precepts for Christian practice,

habit of faith in your soul, and make your soul sensible of the very act of it : By frequent beleeving you shall feel at your very heart that you do beleeve, so shall you have in your self a witness that you are in Christ, 1 Joh. 5. 10. *Hee that beleeveeth in the Son of God hath the witness in himself, &c.*

Secondly, by examining your heart upon what grounds you took Christ to bee yours : The grounds are these five :

1 A sight and sense of your sins, as of the guilt, power, and punishment of them, and of your misery by them, *Mat. 11. 28. Come unto mee all yee that labor, and be heavy laden and I will give you rest.*

2 Your want of Christ seen, and felt at your very heart, to  
justi-

*or the rule of the New Creature. 7*

justific, sanctific, redeem, and save you, else you are utterly lost, and undone everlastingly, Luke 19.10. For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.

3 Gods free and general offer of Christ to any that will take him by faith, Joh. 3. 16. For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever beleeveth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. There are manifold promises to that purpose, and the grounds of all Gods offers and donations of Christ to the poor soul, are free grace, rich mercy, undeserved love, Eph. 2. 4 5, 6, 7. But God who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us; 5. Even when wee were dead in sins, hath quickned

8 Precepts for Christian practice,  
quickened us together with  
Christ (by grace we are  
saved.) 6. And hath re-  
deemed us up together, and made  
us sit together in heavenly  
places in Christ Jesus. 7. That  
in the ages to come, he might  
show the exceeding riches of  
his grace in his kindness to-  
wards us. Titus 3. 4. 5. 6. But  
after that the kindness and  
love of God our Saviour to-  
wards man appeared. 3. Not  
by works of righteousness  
which we have done, but ac-  
cording to his mercy he saved  
us by the washing of regenera-  
tion, and renewing of the Holy  
Ghost. 6. Which he shed on  
us abundantly through Jesus  
Christ our Saviour.

4 Christ's sweet and grate-  
ous invitation of such to come  
to him as are weary of sin, and  
thirsting

or the rule of the New Creation. 9

that have neither work in them  
selves, nor money to buy,  
Matth. 11. 28. Come unto me  
all ye that labour, and are  
heavy laden, and I will give  
you rest. Ezech. 47. 1. His  
quiver and his bow rest upon  
the waters, and he that hath no  
money, come & buy, and when ye  
come, buy wine and milk with-  
out money, and without price.

As sinful vile wretches as you  
are, have been sought of Christ,  
and found in Christ. 1 Cor. 6.  
10. 1. Not fornicators, nor co-  
vertous, nor drunkards, nor ra-  
vishers, nor extortioners shall  
inherit the Kingdom of God.  
11. Such were some of you;  
but ye are washed, but ye  
are sanctified, but ye are  
justified in the name of the  
Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit  
of our God. 1 Tim. 1. 13. Paul  
was

10 *Precepts for Christian practice,*

was a blasphemer, persecutor, and yet obtained mercy. Therefore why may not you? Thus the more clearly you discern on what grounds you take Christ, the clearer will your title to Christ be evidenced to your own soul.

3 By surveying and observing in what manner you take Christ daily, which is,

1 Whether you do wholly renounce all opinion and conceit of your own righteousness and desert; *Mark. 8. 34. Who soever will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross and follow me; Phil. 3. 7, 8, 9. But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ. 8. Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ*

the rule of the New Creature.

11

Christ Jesus my Lord; for whom I have suffered the loss of all things; and do count them but dung that I may win Christ. 2. And be found in him not having my own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is brought by the faith of Christ, the righteousness, which is of God by faith. Thus you come to Christ empty of your self, as very vile, and nothing in our own eyes, unworthy to receive him.

2 Whether you lay hold on Christ with an empty hand, of which joyning nothing at all with Christ in the matter of salvation, as the holy Martyr at the stake cryed out, *None but Christ, None but Christ.*

3 Whether you finde the Father drawing your hearts after

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after: Christ, Joh. 6. 44.

men can come unto me except  
the Father which hath sent

me, draw him; and I will  
raise him up at the last day

Which is in hanging and par-  
ting desires that will never be

satisfied without him; both  
both the stream of your judg-

ment, and affections run after  
him; as 1 Cor. 12. verse 2.

determine to follow him  
many you but Jesus who

and him crucified? Gal. 6. 14  
But God forbid I should glori-

fy in the cross of our Lord  
Jesus Christ, whereby

we are crucified unto the  
world and I into the world.

4 Whether you take Christ  
as well for a Lord to rule

as a Jesus to save you. Gal. 3. 2  
As you therefore have receiv-

ed Christ Jesus the Lord



of the rule of the New Creature. 13

shall yet receive; As one that  
is all in all to you, your mis-  
dome, your righteousness, your  
sanctification, and redemption,  
1 Cor. 1. 30. Your spiritual  
food, John 6. 48. I am that  
bread of life, vers. 55. For my  
flesh is meat indeed, and my  
blood is drink indeed. Your  
joyment, Rom. 13. 14. But  
put ye on the Lord Jesus  
Christ, and make no provision  
for the flesh to fulfil the lusts  
thereof. Your strength, Phil.  
1. 13. I can do all things  
through Christ which strength-  
neth me. Your life, Gal. 2. 20.  
I was crucified with Christ,  
nevertheless I live, yet not I,  
but Christ liveth in me, and  
the life which I now live in  
the flesh, I live by the faith of  
the Son of God, who loved me,  
and gave himself for mee,  
Col.

**14 Precepts for Christian practice,**

**Col. 3. 3. For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God.**

**5** Whether you seek and wait for Christ (out of the sense of your spiritual want and penury) in every ordinance publick and private, Word, Sacrament, Prayer, Meditation, and Conference, not as they are your own works of sanctification, but as they are Gods Ordinances, appointed on purpose for the manifestation and communication of Christ to the soul. Frequent perusal hereof will clear to you your manner of taking Christ, and that will evidence to you your right and title which you have in Christ Jesus.

The

The third Duty.

Labour to draw and derive from Christ by the powerful attractive force of faith, spiritual abilitie sufficient for the day.

**F**irst, to perform all your Duties, Phil. 4. 13. I can do all things through Christ which strengthneth me.

Secondly, to exercise all your graces, 2 Cor. 3. 5. Not that we are sufficient of our selves to think any thing as of our selves; but our sufficiency is of God.

Thirdly, to resist and overcome all your corruptions and temptations, Rom. 8. 37. In all these things we are more than conquerors through  
B him

16 Precepts for Christian practice,

him that loved us.

Fourthly, to undergo all your trials and afflictions, Joh. 1.16. And of his fulness have we all received, and grace for grace.

Make your provision of strength and grace from Christ every morning fetch from him so much as you shall have occasion to use all the day long, yea and upon all occasions that fall out in the day, go to Christ still for the wisdom that must direct you, for the holiness that must character you, for the shoulder that must bear your crosses, for the strength that must resist your temptations, and for ability to perform all duties as duties.

To this end act your faith daily in the promises of grace and strength, as Joh. 1.16. Of his

his fulness have we all received, and grace for grace,   
 Esay 44. 3. I will pour water upon him that is thirsty, and floods upon the dry ground; I will pour my Spirit upon thy seed, and my blessing upon thine off-spring, Ezek. 36. 26, 27. A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you, and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh. 27. And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and you shall keep my judgments and do them, Zach. 10. 12. And I will strengthen them in the Lord, and they shall walk up and down in his Name, saith the Lord. These and the like promises are security given

18 *Precepts for Christian practice,*

you by God, That you shall receive grace in the use of the Ordinances, which are as the Conduit pipes or instruments of conveying the same from Christ to you.

This is the way and means to do all in the strength of Christ, and to take forth a great deal of Christ into your souls; *that not you, but Christ may live in you. Gal. 2. 20. I am crucified with Christ. Nevertheless I live, yet not I, but Christ liveth in me, and the life which I now live in the flesh, I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.*

The

The fourth Duty.

Perform daily duties both in Family and Closet, especially these three, of prayer, meditation, and reading; and do them with sincere intention, with heart of affection, and with diligence and delight.

Jer. 48. 10. Cursed be he that doth the work of the Lord deceitfully, or negligently.

Mal. 1. 14. But cursed bee the deceiver which hath in his flock a male, and voweth, and sacrificeth unto the Lord a corrupt thing; For I am a great King, saith the Lord of Hosts, and my name is dreadful among the heathen,

1 Chron. 21. 24. And King David said to Ornan, Nay, but I will verily buy it for

20 Precepts for Christian practice

the full price ; for I will not  
take that which is thine for  
the Lord, nor offer burnt  
offerings without cost.

To this end,

**F**irst, watch to these duties.  
Keep the heart in a good  
frame for them, undefiled with  
sin, untainted by the world,  
Eph. 6. 18. *Praying always  
with all prayer and supplica-  
tion in the Spirit, and watch-  
ing thereunto with all perse-  
verance and supplication for  
all Saints.*

Secondly, take the fittest  
time for the performance of  
them all, when you are least  
dull and sluggish, begin the  
day constantly with thoughts of  
God, Psal. 57. 7, 8, 9. *My  
heart is fixed, O God, my  
heart*



not heart is fixed, I will sing and  
for give praise; awake up my  
rn glory, awake Psalter and  
harp; I my self will awake  
early, I will praise thee, O  
Lord.

Thirdly, be very real, seri-  
ous, and substantial with God  
in them, endeavour to feel all  
duties at your heart, in living,  
inlarging, inflaming your af-  
fections, Deut. 4. 29. *Thou  
shalt find the Lord thy God  
if thou seek him with all thy  
heart, and with all thy soul,*  
Chap. 6. v. 5. *Thou shalt love  
the Lord thy God with all  
thine heart, and with all thy  
soul, and with all thy might,*  
Psal. 119. 32. *I will run the  
way of thy Commandements  
when thou shalt enlarge my  
heart.* These be the duties of  
most importance and conse-

22 *Precepts for Christian practice,*

quent commodity and comfort to the soul, because they properly aim at, and reach to the souls good, and celestial happiness, yea even to the training up of a soul for heaven.

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The

The fifth duty.  
Fortify your selves every morning against your speciall lusts to which by nature you are most prone, or shall be most tempted; be it pride; passion, covetousnesse, or the like.

This is done,

First, by holy Arguments and reasonings within your selves, drawn from the sad effects thereof, as disprofit, discomfort, disgrace, or the like; this will discover the unreasonable-nesse of your finnes, and make your souls ashamed of them. For example, shall I be proud? then I shall be sure to fall, for pride goeth before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall, Prov. 16. 18. and God will account me for

B 5 his

24 *Precepts for Christian practice,*

his enemy, for God resisteth the Proud, *Jam. 4. 6.* Shall I be angry? if I let passion in, I cannot keep Satan out, *Ephes. 4. 26, 27.* Be angry, but sinne not, Let not the Sunne go down upon your Wrath. 27. Neither give place unto the Devill. Again, I shall grieve the holy Spirit of God, *Verse 30. 31.* And grieve not the holy Spirit of God whereby yee are sealed to the day of redemption. 31, Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evill speaking be put away from you, with all malice. Shall I bee covetous? I cannot but be very sinful, sith the love of money is the root of all evill, *1 Tim, 6. 10.*

Secondly, by pondering in your mind upon the precepts  
in.

in Gods book against your  
 finne, Prov. 6. 23, 24. For the  
 Commandement is a Lampe,  
 and the Law is light: and  
 reproofes of instruction are the  
 way of life: To keep thee from  
 the will woman, from the  
 flattery of the tongue of a  
 strange woman. And on the  
 judgements threatned or in-  
 flicted for them; as on proud  
 Herod, Act. 12. 23. voluptu-  
 tuous Dives, Luk. 16. 23. chur-  
 lish Nabal, 1 Sam. 25. 38.

Thirdly, By applying the  
 promises of mortification close  
 to your hearts, as a plaister  
 to the sore, for subduing your  
 iniquities. Mich. 7. 19. Hee  
 will turn again, hee will  
 have compassion upon us; hee  
 will subdue our iniquities and  
 thou wilt cast all their sinnes  
 into the depth of the Sea.

Romans

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Rom. 6. 14. For sinne shall not have dominion over you, for ye are not under the Law but under grace.

Fourthly, by drawing vertue from Christs death into the soul, which hath in it a force of killing sinne, Rom. 6. 4, 5, 6. Therefore we are buried with him by Baptisme into death, that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of his Father: even so we also should walk in newnesse of life. 5. For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall bee also in the likenesse of his resurrection. 6. Knowing this that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sinne might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sinne, Phil. 3. 10. That I may know

or, the rule of the New Creature. 27

know him, and the power of  
his resurrection, and the fel-  
lowship of his suffering, being  
made conformable unto his  
death.

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**Duty**

## The sixth Duty.

Get your hearts strongly fixed on God by trusting in him, and submitting to him, against all fears, cares, doubts, trials, and afflictions of every day; For sufficient to the day is the evil thereof.

Psal. 112. 7.

He shall not be afraid of evil tidings, his heart is fixed, trusting in the Lord, 2 Sam. 25. 26. But if he thus say, I have no delight in thee, behold here I am; let him do to mee as seemeth good unto him, 1 Sam. 3. 18 It is the Lord, let him do what seemeth him good.



or, the rule of the New Creature. 29

good, Mat. 6. 34. Take therefore no thought for a morrow, for the morrow shall take thought for the things of it self: sufficient unto the day is the evill thereof.

To this end.

**F**irst, Be prudent to foresee your personal tryals, and troubles; whatsoever they are like to be, Prov. 22. 3. A prudent man fore-sees the evill, and hideth himself, but the simple passe on and are punished.

2. Go hide, and lay up your self in God, runne unto his name, for God is a rock of habitation, to which a poor soul may continually resort, yea God will give commandment to save all such as thus do come unto him, Psal. 71. 3. Thou hast

30 Precepts for Christian practice,

- hast given commandment to  
save me thou art my rock & my  
fortress. 1 Pet. 4. 19. Where-  
fore let them that suffer ac-  
cording to the will of God,  
commit the keeping of their  
souls to him in well-doing, as  
unto a faithfull Creator.

3. Especially commit that  
very thing to God, whatsoe-  
ver you desire to keep, or fear  
to lose, put it into his hands,  
2 Tim. 1. 12. I know whom  
I have beleevd, and I am  
perswaded hee is able to keep  
that which I have commit-  
ted unto him against that  
day: be it life, liberty, name,  
friends, maintenance, &c.  
What you would have resol-  
ved, if it bee a doubt, Psal.  
37. 5. Commit thy way unto  
the Lord, trust also in him,  
and he shall bring it to passe.

Or

Or supplied, if it be a want,  
Psal. 37. 4. Delight thy self  
also in the Lord, and he shall  
give thee the desire of thy heart  
Or removed if it be a crosse,  
Prov. 16. 7: When a mans ways  
please the Lord, he maketh  
his very enemies to be at peace  
with him. And together with  
the thing, cast all your care  
fear, sorrow, and trouble of mind  
about it, wholly on the Lord,  
Mat. 6. 31. Therefore take no  
thought, saying, What shall  
we eat? or what shall we drink?  
or wherewith shall wee be  
clothed? Vers. 33. But seek  
ye first the Kingdome of God,  
and his righteousness, and all  
these things shall be added un-  
to you, 1. Pet. 5. 7. Casting all  
your care upon him, for hee  
careth for you, Psal. 55. 22. Cast  
thy burden upon the Lord, and  
hee

32 Precepts for Christian practice,

hee shall sustain thee, hee shall never suffer the righteous to be moved.

Fourthly, Renew your faith in those promises every day, which most concern your present estate, and in promises first of supplies, if you bee in want, Psal. 34. 8. O taste and see, that the Lord is good, blessed is the man that trusteth in him. Psal. 37. 3. Trust in the Lord, and do good, so shalt thou dwell in the Land, and verily thou shalt be fed, And 84. 11. For the Lord God is a Saviour and a shield, the Lord will give grace and glory; no good thing will hee withhold from them that walk uprightly, Mat. 16. 10. Wherefore if God so cloth the grasse of the field, which is to day, and to morrow is cast into

into the oven, shall bee not  
much more clath you, O yee of  
little faith?

2. Of protection, if you be  
in danger, Psal. 34. 7. The  
Angell of the Lord incam-  
peth round about them that  
fear him, and delivereth them.

3. Of direction, if in doubt,  
Jam. 1. 5. If any of you lack  
wisdom, let him ask of God,  
that giveth to all men libe-  
rally, and upbraideth not,  
and it shall bee given him.

4. Of deliverance, if in  
trouble, Job 5. 19. He shall  
deliver thee in six troubles, yea  
in seven, there shall no evill  
touch thee.

5. Of a good end, and  
sanctified use of all. Dent. 8. 16.  
who fed thee in the wilder-  
nesse with Manna, which thy  
Fathers knew not, that hee  
might

## Precepts for Christian practice,

might humble thee, and that  
hee might prove thee, to da thee  
good at thy latter end, Jam. 5.

1. Behold, we account them  
happy which endure: ye have  
heard of the patience of Job,  
and have seen the end of the  
Lord; that the Lord is very  
pittifull, and of tender mer-  
cy. Rom. 8. 28. And we know  
that all things work together  
for good to them that love  
God: to them who are called  
according to his purpose  
Heb. 12. 10. For they verily  
for a few days chastened us af-  
ter their own pleasure; but he  
for our profit, that wee might  
be partakers of his holiness.

2. Fifthly, labour to see Gods  
hand, Psal. 39. 9. I was  
dumb, I opened not my mouth,  
because thou didst it. To  
be-

or, the rule of the New Creature. 39

believe his love, Heb. 12. 6.

For whom the Lord loveth  
hee chasteneth, and scourgeth  
every son whom he receiveth.

Rev. 3. 19. As many as I  
love, I rebuke and chasten, be  
zealous therefore and repent.

And with all meeknesse, and  
patience resign up your selves  
wholly to his will in every af-

liction, Mat. 26. 39. O my Fa-  
ther, if it be possible, let this  
cup passe from me: neverthe-  
lesse, not as I will, but as thou  
wilt.

The

36 Precepts for Christian practice.

The seventh Duty.

Get and keep continually a  
savory relish of your Chri-  
stian priviledges, where-  
with you are invested as you  
are new creatures in Christ.

**A**S first of your dignity,  
that you are the Sons of  
God, 1 Joh. 3. 1, 2. Behold,  
what manner of love the Fa-  
ther hath bestowed upon us,  
that we should bee called the  
Sons of God. Beloved, now  
we are the Sons of God, and  
it doth not yet appear what we  
shall be; but we know that  
when he shall appear, we shall  
be like him, for wee shall see  
him as hee is. 2. Christs  
brethren, Heb. 2. 11. He is not  
ashamed



or, the rule of the New Creature. 37

ashamed to call them Brethren: but saith, Joh. 20. 17. Go to my brethren, and say unto them, I ascend unto my Father, and your Father, and to my God and your God.

3. Heavens Heirs, Jam. 2. 5.

Harken my beloved brethren, hath not God chosen the poor of this world rich in Faith, and heirs of the Kingdom which hee hath promised to them that love him?

4. Partakers of a high, and heavenly calling, Heb. 3. 1.

Secondly, Of your Liberty, that you are the Lords freemen, 1 Cor. 7. 22. For he that is called of the Lord being a servant, is the Lords freeman.

Delivered out of the hands of all your enemies, 2 King. 17. 20.

But the Lord your God shall yee fear, and hee shall deli-

ver

38 Precepts for Christian practice,  
ver you out of the hands of  
your enemies.

Thirdly, Of your victory,  
that you are through Christ  
more than conquerors over all  
the world of Creatures; 1 Joh.  
5:4. For whatsoever is born of  
God, overcometh the world, &  
this is the victory overcometh  
the world, even our Faith,  
Rom. 8. 15. For yee have not  
received the Spirit of bondage  
again to fear, but ye have re-  
ceived the Spirit of adoption,  
whereby we cry Abba, Father,  
Vers. 16. The Spirit is self  
bearing witness with our  
Spirits that wee are the chil-  
dren of God, vers. 17. And if  
children, then heirs, heirs of  
God, joynt heirs with Christ;  
if so be that wee suffer with  
him, that we may be also glo-  
rified together.

Fourthly

Fourthly, Of your Safety,  
that you have Almighty God,  
1 For your place of refuge,  
Psal. 48. 2. God is known in  
her palaces (in Zion) for a re-  
fuge. 2. For a hedge of pro-  
vidence, Job 1. 10. Hast thou  
not made an hedge about  
him, and about his house, and  
about all that hee hath?  
3. For a guard of Angels,  
Psal. 91. 11. For hee shall  
give his Angels charge over  
thee, to keep thee in all thy  
wayes. 4. An inclosure of  
mercy, Psal. 32. 10. Many  
sorrows shall be to the wicked,  
but hee that trusteth in the  
Lord, mercy shall compass  
him; for the promises of God  
are a writ of protection for  
your defence. Heb. 13. 5, 6.  
Let your conversation bee  
without covetousness, and bee

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content with such things as  
ye have: for he hath said, I  
will never leave thee, nor for-  
sake thee. verl. 6. So that wee  
may boldly say, The Lord is my  
help, and I will not fear what  
man shall do unto me.

Fifthly, Of your Riches,  
and durable substance in heaven  
Heb. 10. 34. For ye had com-  
passion of me in my bonds, and  
took joyfully the spoiling of  
your goods, knowing in your  
selves, that you have in  
heaven a better, and induring  
substance; Also an incorruptible  
inheritance, 1 Pet. 1. 4. To an  
inheritance incorruptible and  
undefiled, that fadeth not  
away, reserved in heaven for  
you, &c. A Kingdom of glory,  
and a Crown of life: for you  
are heirs of God, and co-heirs  
with Christ.

Sixthly,

Sixthly, Of your joy and  
trifling, precious for kind, and  
plentiful for measure, Psal.  
16. 11. Thou wilt shew mee  
the path of life, in thy presence  
is fulness of joy, at thy right  
hand there are pleasures for  
evermore. Peace, unconcer-  
vable, Phil. 4. 7. And the peace  
of God which passeth all under-  
standing, shall keep your  
hearts and minds through  
Christ Jesus. Joy unspeak-  
able, 1 Pet. 1. 8. in whom be-  
lieving not seen, yet love, in  
whom though not yet se-  
en, yet believing, yet re-  
joice with joy unspeakable, and  
full of glory. The ministers

Get your hearts affected  
with all these, as being yours.  
Chew, and suck these by seri-  
ous meditation, works, and

warm them on your hearts by  
 close application, rubbing them  
 into your affections. Oppose  
 these your spiritual privileges  
 to all your temporal pressures  
 setting the one against the  
 others; as your heavenly friends  
 to your earthly foes, your high  
 dignity in Christ to your low  
 estate and meanness in the  
 world condition, your wealth  
 above to your want below  
 your future joyes and rest for  
 your present troubles and sor-  
 rows. This will make you  
 patiently patient under the af-  
 flictions of this life, Rom. 8. 18.  
 Rejoycing in hope patient  
 tribulation, continuing  
 prayer; but also joyfull  
 therein, as Rom. 5. 3. And  
 not only so, but glory in tribulation  
 and also, knowing that tribu-  
 lation worketh patience

and triumphant over them, as  
 1 Cor. 15. 55. O death where  
 is thy sting? O grave where  
 is thy victory? Thus did the  
 Apostles, Rom. 8. 18. For I  
 reckon that the sufferings of  
 this present time, are not  
 worthy to be compared with  
 the glory which shall be re-  
 vealed in us. 2 Cor. 4. 17.  
 For our light affliction, which  
 is but for a moment, worketh  
 for us a far more exceeding  
 and eternal weight of glory.  
 vers. 18. While we look not  
 at the things which are seen,  
 but at the things which are  
 not seen; for the things which  
 are seen, are temporal, but  
 the things which are not seen,  
 are eternal. So Chap. 6. vers. 8,  
 9, 10. By honour, and disho-  
 nour, by evil report, and  
 good report, as deceivers

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and yet true. ver. 9. As un-  
known, and yet well known  
as dying, and behold we live  
as chastened, and not killed  
ver. 10. As sorrowful, yet al-  
ways rejoicing; as poor, yet  
making many rich; as ha-  
ving nothing, and yet possessing  
all things.

These will provoke to duties,  
1 Pet. 2. 9. You are a  
chosen generation, a royal  
Priesthood, a holy Nation, a  
peculiar people, that you should  
show forth the praises of him  
who hath called you out of  
darkness into his marvellous  
light. ver. 11. I beseech you  
as strangers and pilgrims,  
abstain from fleshly lusts,  
which war against the soul.  
ver. 12. Having your con-  
versation honest among the  
Gentiles; that whereas they  
speak



speak against you, as evil  
 doers; they may by your  
 good works which they shall  
 behold, glorifie God in the day  
 of their visitation. And pre-  
 serve you, 1 From fainting,  
 2 Cor. 4 16, 17. For which  
 cause we faint not, but though  
 our outward man perish, yet  
 the inward man is renewed  
 day by day. And 2. From  
 trouble of heart, Joh. 14. 1.  
 Let not your heart be trou-  
 bled, yea, beleeve in God,  
 beleeve also in mee, ver. 1.  
 In my Fathers house  
 are many Mansions; if it  
 were not so, I would have  
 told you; I go to prepare a  
 place for you.

C. 4 The

The eighth Duty.

Sanctifie the Lord in  
your hearts daily, make  
him your fear, your love  
and delight.

SANCTIFIE the Lord in your  
Hearts daily, 1 Pet. 1. 15.  
But as he which hath called  
you is holy, so be ye holy in all  
manner of conversation.  
Make him your fear, Isa. 8. 13.  
Sanctifie the Lord of Hosts  
himself, and let him be your  
fear, and let him be your  
dread. Your love, and de-  
light, as Psal. 37. 4. Delight  
thy self also in the Lord, and  
hee shall give thee the desires  
of thine heart.

of the rule of the New Creature

47

To this end, H

First, Have often high and

honourable thoughts of God,

serious meditations of his glor-

ious Attributes, as his Wis-

dom, Power, Truth, Mercy,

Justice, &c. and work them

upon your hearts, that they

may echo to them with pure

and meking affections: This

will increase and nourish up

the divine nature in you,

2 Pet. 1.4. Whereby are gi-

ven unto us exceeding great

and precious promises, that by

these you might be partakers

of the divine Nature.

Secondly, Labour to be af-

fected with all the works of

God, as first to behold, and

admire the wisdom of God

in the creatures, Psal. 146. 5

C S To

To him that by wisdom made the Heavens; for his mercy endureth for ever. 2 To see, and taste Gods goodness in every mercy, Psal. 34. 8. O taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the man that trusteth in him. 3 To take notice of, and to tremble at the anger, and displeasure of God in all his Judgements, Psal. 119. 105. My flesh trembleth for fear of thee, and I am afraid of thy Judgements. Hab. 3. 16. When I heard, my belly trembled, my flesh quivered at my voice, my bones were moved, and I trembled in myself; that I might rest in the day of trouble. 4 That you may answer the dispensations of Gods providence with suitable dispositions; let your hearts carry

carry a counterpane in affection on to all Gods actions, Isa. 26. 8. Yea, in the way of thy Judgements have we waited for thee, the desire of our soul is to thy Name, and to the remembrance of thee.

Thirdly, Wrestle with God by praying, and believing for an heart of flesh, which will receive impressions from the very thought of God in the mind, Ezek. 36. 26. A new heart also will I give you, and a new Spirit will I put within you; And I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh.

Fourthly, Apply promises of particular affections: As first of love, Deut. 30. 6. And the Lord thy God will circumcise thine heart, and the

50 Precepts for Christians practice

the heart of thy seed, to love  
the Lord thy God with all  
thine heart, and with all thy  
soul, that thou mayest live.

2 Of fear, Jer. 32. 40. And  
I will make an everlasting  
Covenant with them, that  
I will not turn away from  
them to do them good; but I  
will put my fear in their  
hearts, that they shall not de-  
part from me.

3 Of delight,  
Isa. 58. 13, 14. vers. 13. If  
thou wilt turn away thy  
feet from the Sabbath,  
from doing thy pleasure on  
my holy day, &c. vers. 14.

Then shall thou delight  
thy self in the Lord, and  
I will cause thee to ride  
upon the high places of the  
Earth, and feed thee with  
the heritage of Jacob thy  
Father, for the mouth of the

Lord

or, the rule of the New Creation. 53

Lord hath spoken it. There  
is heat, and life in these pro-  
mises, sufficient to quicken and  
warm thy dead and frozen  
affections.

The

**The ninth Duty.**

Get a publick spirit, First to mind the things of Jesus Christ as naturally as if they were your own. Secondly, to look on the things of others, and to prefer Jerusalems welfare before your chiefeft joy, and the Gospels liberty before your own, and to mourn for the sins of the times, as the godly in Jerusalem did.

**G**ET a publick Spirit, first, to mind the things of Jesus Christ, as naturally, as if they were your own, Phil. 2.20. For I have no man like minded.



or the rule of the New Creature. 53

ed; who will naturally care  
for your estate. Verse 21. For  
all seek their own, not the  
things which are Jesus Christ's  
Secondly, to look on the  
things of others, and preferre  
first, Jerusalem's welfare before  
your chiefest joy, Psal. 137. 5,  
6. If I forget thee O Jeru-  
salem, let my right hand for-  
get her cunning. Verse 6.  
If I do not remember thee,  
let my tongue cleave to the  
roof of my mouth, if I pre-  
ferre not Jerusalem above  
my chiefest joy. And seconde-  
ly the Gospells liberty before  
your own, as Paul did: and  
thirdly, to mourne for the sins  
of the times, as the Godly in  
Jerusalem did, Ezek. 9. 4. And  
the Lord said unto him, Go  
through the midst of the City,  
through the midst of Jerusa-  
lem.

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lem, and set a mark upon the  
foreheads of the men that  
sigh, and that cry for all the  
abominations that be done in  
the midst thereof.

Especially lay to heart,  
First, The Churches misery,  
when Gods Ordinances go  
down, and superstition goeth  
up, when Gods cause and  
side are put to the worst, when  
any thing falls out, that gives  
a blow to Religion, or proves  
an impediment to the Gospell.  
If the Ark be taken, call your  
comforts Iababads, 1 Sam. 4.  
2. *Two*  
Secondly, The afflictions  
of Joseph, Amos 6. 6. That  
drink wine in bowls, and an-  
noint themselves with olive  
chief ointments, but they are  
not grieved for the affliction  
of

of Joseph; the sufferings of Gods servant, whether Ministers or people. O sympathize with them, Heb. 13. 3. Remember them that are in bonds, as bound with them; and them which suffer adversity, as being your selves also in the body. Neh. 1. 4. And it came to passe, when I heard these words, that I sat down and wept and mourned certain days, and fasted and prayed before the God of heaven: Labour to feel their trouble and sorrow at your very heart; and pray earnestly for them, as the Church did for Peter, Act. 12. 5. Peter therefore was kept in prison, but prayer was made without ceasing of the Church to God for him.

Thirdly, The signes of the times

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times, which hypocrites cannot discern, (though they be well versed in the face of the Skie) to wit, the sad symptoms, & presages of approaching judgements, as, First, the commonnesse of sinne; for all sorts transgresse in all kind of open sinfullnesse with a high hand, against the light of nature, and the means of grace, Ezek. 12.3. *Sonne of man prepare thee stuff for removing, and remove by day in their sight, and thou shalt remove from thy place unto another place in their sight, it may be they will consider, though they be a rebellious house.*

2. Contempt of Gods Ordinances, misusing of his Ministers, 2 Chron. 36. 16. *But they mocked the messengers of God, and despised his words, and*  
*mis-*

or, the rule of the New Creature. 57

misused his Prophets; untill the wrath of the Lord, arose against his people, till there was no remedy.

3. Departure of Gods glory from his house, Ezek: 9. 3. And the glory of the God of Israel was gone up from the Cherub whereupon he was, &c.

4. Incorrigible nesse after former and under present judgements, Lev. 26. from vers. 14. 15. 16. But if ye will not hearken unto mee, and will not do all these commandments, and if ye shall despise my Statutes, or if your soul abhorre my judgements, so that yee will not do all my commandments, but that ye break my covenants, I also will do this unto you; I will even appoint a ver  
you

## Precepts for Christian practice,

ver you terror, consumption,  
and the burning agur; that  
shall consume the eyes, and  
cause sorrow of heart: and  
you shall sow your seed in  
vain, for your enemies shall  
eat it: and so on to the end  
of the chapter.

5. The death of many  
righteous men, and the carrying  
away of others to hiding places,  
Isaiah 57. 1. The righteous  
perisheth, and no man lays it  
to heart, and mercifull men  
are taken away; none conside-  
ring that the righteous is ta-  
ken away from the evil to  
come.

6. The vials of Gods  
wrath powred on the Churches  
beyond the Seas, Jer. 7. 12.  
But go ye now unto my place,  
which is in Shiloh, where I  
set my Name at the first, and  
see

see what I have done unto it,  
for the wickedness of my people  
Israel.

7. The inundation of spi-  
ritual judgements, as a spirit  
of error, superstition, apostasy,  
&c. which do commonly end  
in temporal plagues, Isa. 6. 10,  
11. Make the heart of this  
people fat, and make their ears  
heavy, and shut their eyes, lest  
they see with their eyes, and  
hear with their ears, and un-  
derstand with their heart, and  
convert, and be healed. Verſ.  
11. Then said I, Lord, how  
long? and he answered, un-  
till the Cities be wasted, with-  
out inhabitant, and the hou-  
ses without men, and the Land  
be utterly desolate.

Now the Holy Ghost is a  
publike spirit, breathing and  
acting in all the members of the  
mysticall

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myſticall body of Chriſt: pray  
for it, Luk. 11. 13. If ye then,  
being evill, know how to give  
good gifts unto your children  
how much more ſhall your  
heavenly father give the ho-  
ly Ghoſt unto them that ask  
him, beleeve for it, Gal. 3. 14.  
That the bleſſing of Abraham  
may come on the Gentiles  
through Jeſus Chriſt, that we  
might receive the promiſe of  
the ſpirit through faith, Ezek.  
36. 37. I will yet for this be  
enquired of by the houſe of Is-  
rael, to do it for them; I  
will increaſe them with men  
like a flock.

The



### The tenth Duty.

Get your hearts daily weaned from the world, and from those creatures and comforts in it, which are dearest and sweetest to you, as wife, children, friends, goods, liberties, house, and life, &c.

**T**His Christ requires of those that follow him, Luke 14, 26, 27. If any man come to mee, and hate not his father and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, hee cannot bee my disciple. 27. And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, cannot bee my dis-

60 Precepts for Christian practice,

disciple. Mark 10. 29, 30.

Verily, I say unto you, there is no man hath left house, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my sake, and the Gospels; but hee shall receive an hundred fold; now in this time, houses, and brethren, and sisters, and mothers, and children, and lands with persecutions, and in the world to come eternal life. This will prepare you either to suffer, or to dye when God calls you to it. To this end consider seriously,

First, That these things cannot satisfie your heart, when you have enjoyed them to the full, Eccles. 4. 8. There is one alone, and there is not a second; yea, he hath neither child

or, the rule of the New Creature. 63

child, nor brother; yet is there  
no end of all his labour; nei-  
ther is his eye satisfied with  
riches; neither saith hee, for  
what do I labour, and be-  
waine my Soul of good?  
this is also vanity, yea, it is to  
foretravel; and Chap. 10.  
He that loveth silver shall not  
be satisfied with silver; nei-  
ther that loveth abundance,  
with increase; this is also  
vanity. You soon grow  
weary of them, or gladd with  
them; so that you desire some  
new delights; or more of the  
old, or some over again.

Secondly, Nor can they  
sanctifie you, but wil expose  
you oft to many lusts, tempta-  
tions, distractions, yea to a  
spirit of the world, and they  
will hinder you from following of  
Christ, 1 Tim. 6. 9, 10. But

D

they,

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they that will be rich, fall in  
temptation, and a snare, and  
into many foolish and hurtful  
lusts, which draw men in de-  
struction and perdition.

10. For the love of money is  
the root of all evil, whilst  
whilst some coveted after it,  
they have erred from the  
Faith, and pierced themselves  
thorow with many sorrowes.  
Match. 19. 31, 22. Jesus said  
unto the young man, if  
thou wilt be perfect, go and  
sell that thou hast, and give  
to the poor, and thou shalt  
have treasure in heaven, and  
come and follow mee. 22. But  
when the young man heard  
that saying, hee went away  
sorrowful, for hee had great  
possessions.

Thirdly, Nor can they save  
you from Gods wrath, from  
death.

death and judgement, Prov.  
11. 4. Riches profit not in the  
day of wrath, but right-  
eousness delivereth from  
death.

Fourthly, The wicked  
whose portion is onely in this  
world, have often the greatest  
plagues of them, Job 21. 7. to  
the 14. Wherefore do the  
wicked live, become old, yet  
are mighty in power? 8. Their  
seed is established in their  
right with them, and their  
off-spring before their eyes.  
9. Their houses are safe  
from fear, neither is the rod  
of God upon them. 10. Their  
bull gendereth, and faileth  
not; their cow calveth, and  
casteth not her calf. 11. They  
send forth their little ones  
like a flock, and their chil-  
dren dance. 12. They take

73 66. *Wayes for Christian practice*

the timbrell and harp, and re-  
joyce at the sound of the or-  
gan. 13. They spend their  
dayes in wealth, and in  
moments goe downe to the  
grave.

Fifthly, They serve onely in  
this life, while wee are on this  
side of the grave, they shall  
not bee the least Ingredients  
into our celestial happinesse.  
When wee come to bee hap-  
py in heaven, wee shall stand  
in no need of food, rayment, phy-  
sick, marriage, &c. *Matth.*  
*22.30.* For in the resurrec-  
tion they neither marry,  
nor are given in marriage,  
but are as the Angels of God  
in heaven. Wee shall hunger  
no more, neither thirst any  
more, *Rev. 7.16.* They shall  
hunger no more, neither  
thirst any more, neither shall  
the


the Sun light on them, nor any  
 heat. Wee shall live by the  
 All-sufficient Spirit of God,  
 which never needs refreshing;  
 Wee shall bee cloathed with  
 long white robes of immorta-  
 lity, Rev. 9. After this, I  
 beheld, and loe, a great mul-  
 titude, which no man could  
 number, of all nations, and  
 kindreds, and people, and  
 tongues, stood before the  
 Throne, and before the Lamb,  
 cloathed with white robes, and  
 palms in their hands. In a  
 word, when wee come to hea-  
 ven, the place of Gods Habi-  
 tation, we shall enjoy the face,  
 and beatifical presence of the  
 most glorious Jehovah, blei-  
 sed for ever, as an object,  
 wherein all the powers of our  
 souls will bee satisfied with in-  
 effable delight; and God will

## Precepts for Christian &amp;c.

bee unto us everlastingly all in  
 all, 1 Cor. 15. 28. And when  
 all things shall bee subdued  
 unto him, then shall the Son  
 also himself bee subject unto  
 him that put all things under  
 him, that God may bee all in  
 all.

**FINIS**



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